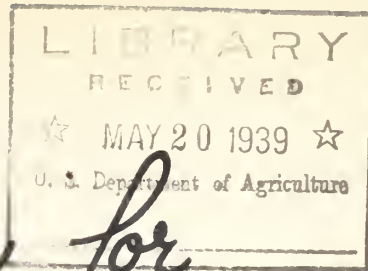


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AAA
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Facts

for

NORTHEAST COMMITTEEMEN

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SCHEDULE OF 1939 ACP ACTIVITIES

Here are the major jobs to be done by State, county, and community committees and offices during the remainder of the year:

1. Community committeemen or assistants inform each farmer how the program applies to his farm before farm field-work begins - latest date May 31.

2. County committees finally determine all acreage allotments before planting time, in all cases before May 31.

3. Wheat Program

(a) Farm checkers complete checking 1939 wheat acreages for parity payments before May 24.

(b) County offices send State offices all applications for parity payments. The goal -- 100% by June 15.

(c) County committees establish wheat yields and allotments for 1940 program -- complete before June 20.

(d) Community committees or assistants inform each wheat grower about the 1940 wheat program and wheat insurance -- before August 1.

4. County committees complete distribution of lime and superphosphate for spring use before planting time. For later use, all orders to be in before September 1.

5. State committees hold conferences of county committees about the 1940 program, to be followed by conferences of county committees with community committees. County committees send 1940 program recommendations to State committee. State committees assemble recommendations for the national program and select representatives to attend the national conference. This is all to be completed before the national conference about the 1940 program, which begins July 10, in Washington, D.C.

6. In states and counties where desired, hold AAA picnics or field days - usually between July 1 and August 15.

7. State office conducts training sessions for farm checkers in the various counties, mainly in July and early August -- final date, August 31.

8. Final date for carrying out soil-building practices -- October 31.

9. County committees check farm compliance, prepare applications for payment, and forward to State office. Goal for completing checking of compliance -- November 30. Goal for completing submission of applications to State office -- December 15.

10. County committees conduct community and county committeemen elections before November 15.

11. State committees conduct 2-day county committee conferences before December 25 to study the 1940 program and plan its presentation to farmers.

FARMERS HOST TO BUSINESSMEN

Businessmen in several counties in Pennsylvania during the first half of May will have an opportunity to secure a clearer understanding of the purposes and operation of the AAA program as the result of informal supper meetings with farmers to talk over farm problems and what the AAA is doing to help solve them.

Farmer-businessmen meetings of this kind started in Wisconsin about two years ago and are popular in every State in the North Central Region. The meetings are arranged by the county Agricultural Conservation committees. Following the supper, the committeemen outline the agricultural problems of the county and State, how the AAA program applies to those problems, and how farmers are using the program to meet them. The meeting is then thrown open for general discussion.

So far this year South Dakota has held over 60 meetings with an attendance as high as 400 people, and averaging about 60 to 75 per meeting. Businessmen attending the meetings included members of commercial clubs, luncheon clubs, chambers of commerce, university clubs, labor unions, a college economics class, general businessmen, oil dealers, and bankers.

In Missouri, 33 farmer-businessmen meetings were held in 29 counties during January and February, with an attendance of 1222 businessmen, 1339 farmers, and 374 women, a total of 2935 people, or about 90 per meeting.

The businessmen asked such questions as the percentage of the county's farmers participating in the program, the effect of imports on prices of farm commodities, how the soil-building allowance is earned, how allotments are determined, and how much of the national income farmers are receiving.

EUROPE'S WHEAT POLICIES LOWER IMPORTS

Since 1932 Britain has encouraged wheat production at home by guaranteeing a price of about \$1.30 per bushel to British Isles producers. In that time the average yearly production has increased from about 47 million bushels to about 62 million bushels.

Italy used to import about 80 million bushels annually; now she imports about 18 million. This drop of three-fourths results from larger home production and smaller consumption. Italy guarantees home producers a price of about \$2.00 per bushel. Germany guarantees a price of about \$2.00 a bushel. Her former imports of about 70 million bushels yearly compare with about 8 million bushels now, a decline of about 90%.

Other European countries that used to import wheat are also restricting imports and encouraging home production. There probably is a better prospect for restoring lost markets in the minor European countries than in the larger ones, but at best these small countries would take only a small percentage of the world's total surplus wheat.

If exporting countries, including the United States, continue growing their present acreage of wheat, they will produce in years of ordinary weather at least 250 million bushels more than the importing countries are prepared to take. (From: USDA Office of Inf., Radio Service, Farm Flashes - Jan. 2, 1939.)

DECLINING FARM OWNERSHIP A SERIOUS PROBLEM

In the Northeast Region the men who are operating farms own about 60% of their value, a considerably better picture than that for the entire country where, according to the last figures, farmers own less than 40%. However, in recent years most Northeastern farmers have been losing ownership at a rate probably as great as in other parts of the country, or even greater.

Percentage of Real Estate Belonging to Farm Operator in the Northeast Region			
State	1930	1935	% Change
Me.	77.7	70.3	7.4 decrease
N.H.	70.4	69.0	1.4 decrease
Vt.	61.2	58.2	3.0 decrease
Mass.	62.7	61.9	.8 decrease
R.I.	61.2	57.8	3.4 decrease
Conn.	64.3	67.9	3.6 increase
N.Y.	59.8	55.3	4.5 decrease
N.J.	56.8	53.2	3.6 decrease
Pa.	62.5	57.4	5.1 decrease

Nationally, farmers have been losing ownership at the rate of about 4% of the value of the farms every 10 years. From 1930 to 1935 their equity decreased 3% of the total value. In the Northeastern States farmers' equity decreased in this period at the rates shown in the accompanying table.

In Connecticut during the 5-year period farmers reversed the trend and gained 3.6% in the percentage of the value of the farms that they owned.

It is obvious that in the country as a whole the land-owning farm operator is losing ground. In recent past the Northeast seems to be involved in the same process to an extent that challenges consideration.

NORTHEASTERN FARMER'S DOLLAR BUYS MORE

The northeastern farmer's income today will buy more goods than it would 10 years ago.

Although cash farm income from the sale of crops, livestock, and livestock products in the northeastern States is but 85 or 90% of pre-depression levels, its real value in terms of buying power is higher than in the pre-1929

Cash Farm Income of Northeastern Farmers, Including Government Payments Beginning in 1933.

State	1925-29 Ave.	1933	1937	1938
(M i l l i o n s o f D o l l a r s)				
Me.	73	48	58	48
N.H.	24	14	20	18
Vt.	47	27	37	38
Mass.	67	49	68	65
R.I.	8	6	8	8
Conn.	52	36	50	47
N.Y.	362	220	313	293
N.J.	96	69	91	88
Pa.	273	177	271	247
Region				
Total	1,006	650	921	856
Buying Power				
Compared	100	92.3	109	107.7
With 1925-29				
N.E. Share of				
Total U.S. Cash	9.8	12.7	10.8	11.2
Farm Income				

era because of the decrease that has occurred in the prices of things farmers buy. In 1937 the money income of northeastern farmers would buy 10% more than in the earlier period. The comparable figure for 1938 was 8%.

The cash income of the farmers in the nine Northeastern States averaged a little over a billion dollars a year through the years that are apt to be thought of as good years, including and preceding 1929. By 1932 it had sunk to under 600 million, and in 1933 had increased to 650 million. In both years it was less than two-thirds the pre-depression amount. There was a steady recovery each year since that time, the figure

reaching 921 million in 1937 with a drop to a little over 850 million in 1938.

The problem of sustaining farmers' incomes under the trying conditions of the present transition period is extremely difficult, but the degree of success that has been obtained up to the present, while not adequate to meet the need, at least gives considerable assurance that the agencies at work are proving effective.

The table above gives the amount of cash received by the farmers of the Northeastern States in millions of dollars. It also states the percentage of the United States cash farm income that Northeastern farmers received during each period. The latter figure makes clear that Northeastern farmers have been a little better off relatively during the depression and under the farm program than have the farmers of the country as a whole.

In line with greater countrywide participation, about 1,534,000 North Central Region farmers had indicated their intention to participate in the 1939 AAA program by April 21, or nearly 390,000 more than the total participation in that Region last year.